

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EA-11 IO-14 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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EUR-25 DRC-01 /255 W

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R 161210Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5294

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA ON ECONOMIC ACHIEVE-  
MENTS AND FOREIGN POLICY AT BDP PARTY CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: AT 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA REVIEWED BOTSWANA'S ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVER PAST FIVE YEARS AND EXPLAINED GOB ACTION IN BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND WITHDRAWAL RECOGNITION TAIWAN. CONFERENCE WAS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SINCE MARKED BEGINNING OF PREPARATION FOR FORMULATION FUTURE POLICIES IN CONNECTION GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED LATER THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA, AMBASSADOR  
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ATTENDED OPENING SESSION 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF RULING

BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY HELD AT KANYE ON APRIL 12. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT AND LADY KHAMA, OPENING SESSION OF CONFERENCE ALSO ATTENDED BY OTHER HEADS DIPLOMATIC CORPS, FEDERAL MINISTERS, DISTRICT AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, OTHER PARTY LEADERS, SOME 300 BDP DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS.

3. PRESIDENT TOLD AMBASSADOR 13TH CONFERENCE WAS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO BDP; IT MARKED BEGINNING OF PREPARATION FOR FORMULATION FUTURE POLICIES AND COURSES OF ACTION CONNECTION NATIONAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR. ALSO CONFERENCE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE HELD IN OPPOSITION BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT TERRITORY.

4. RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT AND BDP DELEGATES BY LOCAL POPULATION APPEARED WARM AND FRIENDLY. PRESIDENT TOLD AMBASSADOR THIS WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST PREVIOUS PARTY CONFERENCES IN KANYE WHICH HAD MET WITH COOLNESS AND EVEN SOME HOSTILITY. PRESIDENT SEEMS BE MAKING DETERMINED EFFORT SHAKE FEELING OF COMPLACENCY AMONG RULING BDP MEMBERSHIP AND URGING THEM REDOUBLE EFFORTS RECAPTURE SEATS LOST TO OPPOSITION PARTIES IN LAST ELECTION.

4. PRESIDENT DEVOTED MOST OF HIS ONE HOUR AND FORTY MINUTE SPEECH TO SALIENT FEATURES OF BDP ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVER PAST FIVE YEARS AND COMMENTED ON CONDUCT BOTSWANA FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. AGRICULTURE AND MINERALS: PRESIDENT NOTED THAT LIVESTOCK WAS BOTSWANA'S MOST IMPORTANT RURAL INDUSTRY AND NATIONAL HERD HAD INCREASED FROM ONE MILLION IN 1969 TO 2.5 MILLION. THERE HAD BEEN NO OUTBREAK FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OVER PAST FIVE YEARS WITH RESULT THAT EXPORT TRADE IN BEEF HAD BEEN CONDUCTED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD ESTABLISHED WORK ALONGSIDE PRIVATE SECTOR HELP DEAL WITH SUCH

PROBLEMS INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES AND PRICE DISPARITIES BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP UP FIFTY PERCENT; GOB SEES COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AS ESSENTIAL TO ENABLE MASSES OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT REFERRED TO INCREASING REVENUE RECEIPTS FROM DIAMOND, COAL, COOPER AND NICKEL MINING AND REITERATED 1969 ELECTION PLEDGE TO USE SIGNIFICANT PORTION MINING REVENUES DEVELOP RURAL AREAS.

6. INDUSTRIALIZATION: PRESIDENT STRESSED IMPORTANCE INDUSTRIALIZATION AS FACTOR HELPING BOTSWANA ACHIEVE ECONOMIC

INDEPENDENCE AND "THUS CONSOLIDATE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE". INDUSTRIALIZATION IN PRESIDENT'S VIEW WILL HELP REDUCE NEED BOTSWANA SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN "NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" (READ SOUTH AFRICA). PRESIDENT SAID RECENTLY ESTABLISHED BOTSWANA ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS ONE OF GOB TOP PRIORITIES; IT WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL, MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS WHO WANT ESTABLISH THEIR OWN ENTERPRISE. NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY ESTABLISH NUMBER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES INCLUDING TEXTILE MILL, LIVESTOCK FOODSTUFFS, INDUSTRIAL GAS AND BREWERY.

7. TRANSPORTATION: PRESIDENT BORE DOWN HARD ON INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT MODERN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. HE SAID ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION WAS MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF GOB AND NOTED WORK HAD STARTED ON BOT-ZAM ROAD (SEE GABORONE 0474).

8. TRADE POLICY: MAJOR EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE DIVERSIFY EXPORTS SO THAT BOTSWANA NOT SUBJECT TO DICTATES OF ANY PARTICULAR MARKET. IN THIS CONNECTION GOB NEGOTIATING WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENT ESPECIALLY AVOID REDUCTION BEEF EXPORTS.

9. BUDGET OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ATTAINING BUDGETARY SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THIS YEAR GOB NOT ONLY ABLE FINANCE RECURRENT EXPENDITURES FROM LOCAL REVENUES; SOME R13 MILLION OF DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES BEING FINANCED FROM CURRENT REVENUES. RESOLUTION EFFORTS ARE CONTINUING ENSURE FINANCIAL VIABILITY.

10. FOREIGN AFFAIRS: PRESIDENT SAID FOREIGN POLICIES HAVE REMAINED CONSISTENT WITH BOTSWANA'S PRINCIPLES AND INTERESTS. GOB CONTINUES MAKE FRIENDS AND ENTER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH AS MANY COUNTRIES WELL DISPOSED TOWARD BOTSWANA. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES PLAY FULL PART IN OAU, UN, CBMMON-WEALTH AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. PRESIDENT EXPLAINED GOB ACTION IN BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND WITHDRAWAL RECOGNITION TAIWAN. RE ISRAEL, PRESIDENT SAID ACTION DUE PROFOUND UNHAPPINESS AT ISRAEL'S TOTAL DISREGARD OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST. HE ADDED THAT GOB ATTACHED TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE UN TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH A NATION THAT "PERSISTENTLY DISREGARDS WILL OF WORLD BODY". PRESIDENT SAID WITHDRAWAL RECOGNITION TAIWAN DICTATED BY NEED FOR CONSISTENCY IN CONDUCT FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE RECALLED THAT BOTSWANA HAD VOTED FOR 1971 UN RESOLUTION WHICH SOUGHT RECOGNITION PRC AS SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. HAVING VOTED FOR THIS RESOLUTION, PRESIDENT SAID IT WAS INCONSISTENT FOR BOTSWANA CONTINUE RECOGNIZE TAIWAN REGIME.

BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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